

Remark

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-10, 13-15, and 18-22 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-23 are now presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Fukuda

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 8-10, 13-15 and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated over Fukuda, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0172332 (Fukuda”).

Fukuda provides an example of a conventional system in which all of the tuners are controlled in the same way. In the example of Fukuda, all of the tuners 102, 103 are coupled to the receiver 101 using the same IEEE 1394 interface and AV/C protocol.

In the present invention, different types of tuners which use different communication protocols can be accommodated through the use of the claimed microcontroller. The microcontroller receives instructions from a graphics controller, identifies the tuner to which they are directed, converts them for the benefit of the respective tuner and transmits them accordingly.

Referring to Claim 1 as an example, it has first and second tuners and first and second protocols for commands. The “second protocol [is] different from the first protocol and specific to the second tuner.” In Fukuda there is the AV/C protocol used over the 1394 interface. This is used by all of the tuners. There is also a serial bus interface asynchronous protocol that is also used by all of the devices.

Claim 1 also refers to a microcontroller which receives commands from a graphics controller in yet another third protocol “different from the first and second protocols.” Fukuda does not mention a third protocol or that the control unit 230 of the receiver 101 uses a particular protocol that is different from the control unit 204 of the tuner 102.

The microcontroller, in addition to converting commands from one protocol to another, also identifies a tuner, converts the command to the appropriate protocol for the identified tuner and transmits the converted command to the respective identified tuner.

These operations are not possible in Fukuda’s design. Only the receiver’s control unit 230 can send commands to different tuners. The commands are in the same AV/C protocol for all of the tuners and are probably addressed using the conventional Firewire addressing scheme. At each tuner only the AV/C and local protocols are used.

Based on the distinctions above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of the final Office action July 30, 2009 are traversed.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Fukuda

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 11, 16 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda. This rejection is addressed to the claims which refer to a look-up table and are traversed on the same grounds as provided above.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Fukuda and Young

The Examiner has rejected claims 7, 12, 17 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda and in further view of Young, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0194968 (“Young”). This rejection relies on the same grounds as the anticipation rejection based on Fukuda and is traversed on the same grounds as provided above.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.


Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: September 21, 2009



Gordon R. Lindeen III
Reg. No. 33,192

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040
(303) 740-1980